

Town of Newstead

Spring 2011 Newsletter

- Town Hall Hours are Monday -Friday, 8-4:30 PM, 542-4573
- Assessor Hours are Mon.& Thurs., 8-2:00 PM, Tues. 8-4:30PM 542-4574
- Building Inspector Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30 PM, 542-4574

Tax Website: www.tslco.net/newstead.htm

Newstead Town Hall
5 Clarence Center Rd.
Akron, NY 14001
www.erie.gov/newstead

FYI

The 2011 assessment equalization rate is 99% as determined by the State of New York, an indication that overall property values in Akron/Newstead have NOT declined.

**New Doors
at the Town
Hall: Touch
the blue sticker
on the door to
get out.**

IMPORTANT DATES

- **March 1** -Taxable Status Day, all exemption applications are due & new construction is valued
- **May 1** -Filing of Tentative Assessment Roll
- **May- (fourth Tuesday)** -Grievance Day
- **July 1** -Filing of Final Assessment Roll

WELCOME

The Building Department would like to introduce our new Code Enforcement Officer, **Ralph Migliaccio** for the Town of Newstead and Village of Akron. Ralph is from the Clarence/ Williams-ville area but would like to move to Akron/ Newstead. With over thirty years of experience as a General Contractor, he is

not only extremely knowledgeable regarding building, but is also a people person and provides excellent customer service. He welcomes any questions or concerns you may have. Feel free to stop by the Town Hall to see Ralph or call 542-4574.

Revaluation Project to begin 2011 FOR 2012 Assessment Roll.

In order to more accurately value each property, it is very important that our inventory records are up to date and accurate. Part of the revaluation process will be to mail out property surveys. We ask that you check them over, make any corrections and return them to the Assessor's Office. You should receive the surveys in the spring.

Taxe\$, Taxe\$, Taxe\$

The Assessment Advisory Committee (AAC) of the Town of Newstead announces a new taxes & assessment forum entitled **TAXES, TAXES, TAXES**. The Committee decided to create the forum in response to a survey indicating that the assessment process is confusing, complicated and unfair. The committee members: former Assessor Fred Pask, Councilman Jim Mayrose, and citizen members Matt Karcher, Don Kreher, Donna Doll, Steve Carlson & Stan Serwon have all made it their mission to improve your understanding of the assessment process.

We see the assessment process as a partnership between residents and government, because both are necessary to insure that the process is fair & equitable to all citizens. As such, the objective of **TAXE\$, TAXE\$, TAXE\$** is to strengthen that partnership thru education! Each week we'll pick a question submitted by Akron/ Newstead residents and answer it so that it is easily understood. All submittals will be considered anonymous. Questions can relate to taxes, assessments, budgets, state rules, zoning, permits, quality of service and general government.

Questions can be called in at 542-4574 OR emailed to aac@townofnewstead.com, or placed in the drop box at the front of the Town Hall bldg. ALL respectful questions will be treated as important, relevant and anonymous. All questions and answers will be archived on the Newstead website www.townofnewstead.com

NEW \$500,000 Income limit for Basic STAR property tax exemption.

Beginning this year, legislation requires that taxpayers who earn more than \$500,000 will no longer receive the Basic STAR exemption. To confirm your eligibility, your assessor may ask you to provide information about your income. If you don't receive a notice from your assessor, there's no need to do anything—you'll continue to receive the Basic STAR exemption. To learn more about the STAR program and the assessment grievance process, visit the Tax Department's property tax website: www.orps.state.ny.us

HOW INCOME IS DEFINED

For 2011, income for Basic STAR purposes is based on the 2009 tax year and is the combined income of:

- All owners who reside at the property, and
 - Any owner's spouse who resides at the property
- Income is defined as federal "adjusted gross income" minus the "taxable amount" of total distributions from IRAs.

BUILDING PERMITS

The Town of Newstead requires building permits on all new construction except the following:

- One story detached storage shed without a permanent foundation less than 144 sq ft.
- Installation of swings and playground equipment for a one or two family home.
- Pools designed for a water depth of 24 inches or less
- Installation of fences, except when part of a pool enclosure
- Repairs and replacement of equipment unless it affects the structure, means of egress or fire safety equipment.

REMINDER: Make sure your garbage and recycling bin is visible for collection and is at the road by **6:00am** on Thursday



GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE—

Allied Waste observes the following upcoming holidays:

- **Memorial Day**—Always on Monday. Therefore, collection will be Friday
- **Independence Day**—If the 4th of July falls on a business day, collection will be Friday.
- **Labor Day**—Always on a Monday. Therefore, collection will be Friday

If you have any concerns, you may contact the Customer Service Department at Allied Waste at (716)614-3333

New ID Badges will be issued to all Town of Newstead Employees. For your own protection, feel free to ask to see their badges if they come to your property to do an inspection or site visit.



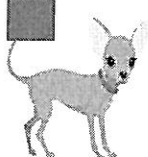
For **Electrical Inspections**

Call either:

Commonwealth Electric
(716-316-7091) or
Empire (585-798-1849)

The Town of Newstead, after over 6 months of addressing the new changes in the New York State Laws regulating licensing of dogs, has finally begun the task of implementing the new licensing requirements effective January 1, 2011. Some highlights of the new changes are that the Town, as well as all local municipalities throughout the State, is now solely responsible for the licensing of dogs in New York State. From January 1st on the Town will now be responsible for sending out all annual renewal notices to residents as well as licensing all newly acquired dogs. Also, there is now a limit on the number of dogs one household can have. After investigating the limits other towns in Erie County have in place, with most ranging from 2 to 3 dogs, the Town Board decided to implement a 4 dog limit in Akron & Newstead. Anyone housing more than 4 dogs will need to apply for either a Multi-dog Permit or a Special Use Permit to operate a Kennel from the Town.

Another change is the increase of fees for dog licenses. A license for a spayed/neutered dog will now be \$10.00 annually with \$1.00 of that fee still going to the State for population control programs, and a license for an un-spayed/un-neutered dog will be \$20.00 annually with \$3.00 of that fee still going to the State for population control programs.



The Town Clerk's office and the Dog Control Officer are asking for resident's assistance during this transition time in updating their files to current status. If you have moved in the past year or your dog has become deceased, lost or for some reason left the area of the town, please notify the Town Clerk's office at 542-4573 to avoid any problems with sending out renewal notices.

A QUICK UPDATE

The Town Hall addition is complete except for some landscaping to be done in the spring. The Village and Town Court offices are at the Town Hall and both hold court there. The Joint Highway Facility is moving along and should be completed by April 2011. We received a grant for over \$ 800,000 to address the Murder Creek bank stabilization between Brooklyn and Main Streets. This work should take place in 2011. The Town continues to address our resident's need for water. Each year we try to address a part of the outstanding areas.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

By doing some each year, we can accomplish our goal at a reasonable cost to the taxpayers. In 2011 we are looking at Burdick, Kelkenberg and parts of Tonawanda Creek, Maple and Keopsel Roads We continue to search for grants to provide services to our residents at the most reasonable cost we can. Each year we submit 6-10 grant applications. We have been very fortunate in the past four years, having received over \$1.5 million in grant funding for various projects in the Town and Village. We are looking for community input on the future of the Limerick Hall at the corner of Cummings and Clarence Center Roads.

We have not had any type of meetings or functions at the hall for almost a year for health and safety reasons. Your comments on what to do with the building are welcomed.

Please contact me at 542-1231 or
Email me at
dcummings@townofnewstead.com
with any comments you might have concerning the Town of Newstead.

- David Cummings,
Supervisor
Town of Newstead